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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

Fresh-water investigation in Switzerland is in charge of a "Limnological Commission" of the Swiss "Naturforschende Gesellschaft." This Commission was under the presidency of Prof. F. A. Forel, but for a number of years of late the position has been occupied by Prof. F. Zschokke, of the University of Basel. At present the Commission is engaged principally in an exhaustive examination of the Vierwaldstättersee. This work is in charge of a special committee of which also Professor Zschokke is chairman. The investigations have been carried on for three years, and are in full progress at present ; they include work along physical, chemical, botanical, and zoological lines. The physical report has been published, and two zoological papers — upon the plankton and the Mollusca — are ready for the press. It is hoped that the entire project will be completed in ten years. The results are published in the *Berichten der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft zu Luzern*. There is a finance committee that secures the funds needed for the prosecution of the work by subscriptions from the authorities, societies, and individuals interested in the locality. Lake Zürich is also being investigated by the city of Zürich, in conjunction with the University and its associated polytechnic schools. The zoological part of the work is in charge of Dr. G. Heuscher, and the botanical side is attended to by Prof. C. Schröter. The Limnological Commission also has an interest in these explorations. The individual work of Prof. F. A. Forel upon Genfersee and that of the International Commission on Bodensee should also be mentioned.

Profs. E. L. Mark and W. M. Davis, of Harvard, and Henry F. Osborn, of Columbia, are spending their sabbatical year in Europe.

Osbert Salvin, the well-known ornithologist, and co-editor with Frederic Godman, of the *Biologia Centrali Americana*, died near Haslemere, England, at the age of 63. He was a graduate of Cambridge, made three trips to Central America, and was for several years editor of the ornithological journal, *The Ibis*. He was author, either alone or with an associate, of about 125 papers.

The University of California has been presented by the Alaskan Commercial Company of San Francisco with the large and valuable

collections which the company has been accumulating for many years. The ethnological portion of the collection is especially rich, and doubtless one of the best in existence. The collection also embraces fossil remains of mammoth, and many skins and mounted specimens of birds and mammals and invertebrates of the Alaskan region.

Recent Appointments : Miss Agnes May Claypole, of Wellesley, assistant in histology and comparative physiology in Cornell University. — Dr. F. E. Clements, instructor in botany in the University of Nebraska. — Dr. W. McM. Woodworth has been appointed assistant in charge of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge.

Appointments to fellowships : University of Nebraska, Albert B. Lewis and Charles C. Morrison in zoology, Cassius A. Fisher in geology, Albert T. Bell and Cora F. Smith in botany. — Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Gilman A. Drew, Bruce fellow in biology.

The following appointments to fellowships have been made by Harvard University : Parker fellowship for non-resident study, Frank Watts Bancroft, zoology. — Morgan fellowships, Amadeus William Grabau, paleontology ; Edward Charles Jeffrey, botany.

The following appointments have been made at the University of Illinois : Mr. C. W. Young, B.S., assistant in botany ; Mr. Wallace Craig, B.S., assistant in the State Laboratory of Natural History at Illinois Biological Station, Havana, Ill. ; Mr. E. B. Forbes, B.S., field entomologist of the State Laboratory of Natural History ; Dr. J. P. Hylan, assistant professor of psychology ; Dr. C. A. Kofoed, assistant professor of zoology. — Mr. C. F. Hottes, M.S., assistant in botany, goes to Bonn and Leipzig for botanical study.

Recent deaths : Dr. Theodor Eimer, professor of zoology in the University of Tübingen, and a well-known advocate of Neo-Lamarckian views, May 29. — C. W. A. Hermann, mineralogist, in New York, June 21, aged 97.